

Imprecision in Action 12/9/2017

**Board 1**

North Deals	♠ 10 5 2		
None Vul	♥ Q J 10 6		
	♦ K 10 5 4		
	♣ 10 4		
			♠ J 8 4
♠ K 3			♥ K 5
♥ A 7 3 2			♦ Q J 7 2
♦ A 8 6			♣ K J 7 6
♣ 8 5 3 2			

♠ A Q 9 7 6
♥ 9 8 4
♦ 9 3
♣ A Q 9

NS 2♠; NS 1N; EW 2♣; NS 1♥; EW 1♦;

Par +100; EW 3♣×-1

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
	Pass	1 NT <sup>1</sup>	All pass

1. 11-13

1 NT by East

Lead: ♠ 7

Down 2 — EW -100

Andrew Hanes and I have been playing a version of *Standard Modern Precision (SMP)* for three years. We worked from two mini-books by Dan Neill. His second edition is now available as a professional paperback or e-book -- see [dbridgewithdan.com](http://dbridgewithdan.com). This is my first public writing about our system.

As we were learning and customizing our system, one wag called it *Imprecision*, and the name stuck. Our two differences from SMP: the responses to the 1♦ opening are entirely new and different; and when not vulnerable, 1 NT shows 11-13 HCP balanced, usually without a 5-card major. What follows are our Imprecision deals from the recent Watertown Sectional tournament.

On Board 1, for South to intervene in spades over 1 NT would be quite a risk. Declaring 1 NT, East can easily win one spade, two hearts and two diamonds: -100 (58%), -50 (72%) or +90 (94%).

However, East actually made an anti-system pass on his admittedly cruddy hand. North-South easily bid 2♠, making with an overtrick on a club lead (-140 for us). Three Souths went down in 2♠, perhaps by leading hearts, yielding a ruff, and using the diamond entry to finesse the ♠ Q. Our score: 25%.

**Board 8**

West Deals	♠ K 3 2		
None Vul	♥ 9 7 6 5		
	♦ J 3 2		
	♣ A J 6		
			♠ J 10 9 7 6
♠ A 5 4			♥ Q J 10 2
♥ 3			♦ 5
♦ K Q 8 6			♣ 9 8 5
♣ K Q 7 4 2			

♠ Q 8
♥ A K 8 4
♦ A 10 9 7 4
♣ 10 3

NS 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♦; EW 1♠; Par +100;

EW 2♠×-1

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
1 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1 ♠ <sup>2</sup>	Dbl
2 ♠ <sup>3</sup>	3 ♥	Dbl	All pass

1. 10-15 HCP, 2+ diamonds

2. Non-forcing!

3. 13-16 support points

3 ♥× by North

Lead: ♥ Q

Down 2 — NS -300

The pair who christened our system once got to defend 1♦ with 7-3 trumps against our 2-1 fit. Never again. Now, if responder hates diamonds, he runs out to another suit, and that bid is non-forcing.

The 1 NT [artificial], 3♥ and 3♠ reponses are invitational; 2♦ [artificial], 2♥, 2♠ and 2 NT are forcing to game; and pass usually delivers four diamonds. This puts our 1♦ system on a similar footing to the 1♣ system, where strength is shown before or while a fit is explored.

On this deal, East ran out to 1♠. South could not tell if we were stealing or not, and tried a takeout double. West had a fine hand for spades, and said so. With 8 HCP after South's double, North's clear choice was 3♥. East smacked him down for it. As is often the case, a trump lead works well against a doubled partscore. North wound up two in the glue.

Our score: 99%.

**Board 10**

East Deals  
Both Vul

♠ K Q 7 4  
♥ Q  
♦ 9 8 7 2  
♣ K 4 3 2

♠ J 9 2  
♥ 8 6 5 2  
♦ K Q 5 3  
♣ 10 7



♠ A 8 6 3  
♥ A K 3  
♦ J 4  
♣ J 9 8 5

♠ 10 5  
♥ J 10 9 7 4  
♦ A 10 6  
♣ A Q 6

NS 1N; NS 2♦; NS 1♥; NS 1♣; Par +90

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>	<i>Shark</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>Selen</i>
		1♦ <sup>1</sup>	1♥
Pass	1♠	2♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♦ <sup>3</sup>	Dbl	All pass	

1. 2+ diamonds, 11-15 HCP (12-13 vulnerable, if balanced).
2. Promises 4+ ♣ and 4+ ♦ in all discussed situations.
3. Pleased to pick a minor.

2♦× by West

Down 2 — EW -500

This was our only system problem, in uncharted waters. Andrew thought a double would be for takeout, with both minors, and therefore, 2♣ showed only clubs! (That theory was too much for me at the table.) Shark was not sure he would have doubled 2♣, so I might have escaped with a good score by passing. Andrew passed 2♦ doubled, because he thought I had five, not that there was any place better to go.

East has a minimum balanced opening, and should seldom re-enter the auction on his own. West will assume the strength East has, and act accordingly. West has shown nothing, South could easily have 15 HCP, North's hand is unlimited, and they have not found a fit - a very dangerous time to bid. With ♠AQ3 ♥43 ♦J84 ♣AQJ85, East might venture a 2♣ bid, hoping West would read it correctly. He might still get nailed in clubs; but the ♦J84 provides some protection, if partner thinks he is supposed to convert. We were not playing well, but we hung in there.

Our score: 8%.

**Board 15**

South Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ 5 4 3  
♥ 6 5 3  
♦ A J 8 2  
♣ K 9 5

♠ 8 2  
♥ K Q J 10 9 2  
♦ 7 4  
♣ A 3 2



♠ A K 9 6  
♥ A 8 4  
♦ Q 10 6 5  
♣ 8 6

♠ Q J 10 7  
♥ 7  
♦ K 9 3  
♣ Q J 10 7 4

EW 4♥; EW 3N; EW 1♠; EW 1♦; NS 1♣;

Par -420

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
			Pass
1♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

4♥ by West

Lead: ♠ 3

Made 4 — EW +420

On unbalanced hands, we play a Bergen rule of 19, that is, one point lighter than the standard rule of 20. The West hand is a clear cut opening bid for us: 10 fine HCP plus 9 cards in the two longest suits is 19. East has 14 support points and no slam interest, so bids the game. (The maximum HCP for West is 15.)

Declarer wins the opening lead and ducks a club. Winning the spade continuation, he takes the ♣A, ruffs a club with the ♥A, pulls trump, and claims ten tricks.

Playing standard methods, such as 2/1 game force, West would have to choose between opening a light 1♥ or a heavy 2♥. If he chooses the latter, he may play there. East should not play West for the perfect hand he has: four trump honors, a side ace, and a third club to ruff.

On the other hand, if he opens 1♥, he would land in game opposite ♠AQ96 ♥A84 ♦86 ♣QT65. (That hand is only an invitation for us.)

Our score: 75%.

**Board 16**

West Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 4  
♥ K 10  
♦ J 5 4 3 2  
♣ K 10 8 7 3

♠ K J 10 8 7 6  
♥ 2  
♦ A 10 9 8  
♣ J 9



♠ A 9 5  
♥ A Q J 9 8 5 3  
♦ 7 6  
♣ A

♠ Q 3 2  
♥ 7 6 4  
♦ K Q  
♣ Q 6 5 4 2

EW 7N; EW 7♠; EW 7♥; EW 3♦; NS 2♣;  
Par -2220

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
1 ♠ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2 ♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♦ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	6 ♠	All pass

1. The plus of having spades offsets the ♣ J flaw in this Bergen 19 count.
2. Natural and forcing to game.
3. Courtesy cue bid (bypassed serious 3 NT).
4. Two key cards without the ♠ Q.

6 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ K

Made 7 — EW +1460

No, North was not a close relative. After the lead, finessing in trumps guaranteed the contract. (Supposing it lost, I would enter dummy with the ♣ A, ruff the hearts good, and ruff a club to dummy.)

There is a lot more to the play on a diamond lead, of course.

Our score: 96%.

**Board 19**

South Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ Q J  
♥ J 10 9  
♦ A 6  
♣ A K J 10 5 4

♠ K 7 4  
♥ A Q 8 6 2  
♦ K Q 5 3 2  
♣ —



♠ A 10 6 5 2  
♥ 5 3  
♦ J 4  
♣ 8 7 6 3

♠ 9 8 3  
♥ K 7 4  
♦ 10 9 8 7  
♣ Q 9 2

EW 5♠; EW 4♥; EW 4♦; NS 1♣; Par -650

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
			Pass
1 ♥	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
3 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 ♠	All pass		

1. Promises at least 5-5, but limited to 15 HCP.

3 ♠ by West

Lead: ♣ A

Made 4 — EW +170

Do you like to bid? I sure do. I like partner's pass of 3 ♠ very much - I would not like to count on the ♠ QJ to be doubleton.

A standard 1 ♥ opening could be much stronger, so it would be inconceivable to pass 3 ♠ with the East hand. Therefore, the standard opener should not bid 3 ♠ at all.

Three other pairs made four in a major suit part score, for a shared top.

Our score: 89%.

**Board 23**  
South Deals  
Both Vul

♠ Q 9 8 3  
♥ K 9 4 2  
♦ A 6  
♣ Q 4 2

♠ J 7 5 4  
♥ A 8  
♦ K Q 5 4  
♣ J 8 7

♠ A K 10 6  
♥ 7  
♦ J 10 8 7 2  
♣ 9 5 3

♠ 2  
♥ Q J 10 6 5 3  
♦ 9 3  
♣ A K 10 6



EW 3♥; NS 2♠; EW 1N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣;  
Par -140

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	

			Pass
1♥ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♠ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♥ <sup>3</sup>	All pass		

1. Everyone should open 1♥: 20 Bergen points.
2. Lacking a game force, we bid all 4-card spade suits.
3. 6+ hearts, 0-2 spades, 10-13 HCP; prepared to bid 3♣ (weak) over 2NT.

2♥ by West

Lead: ♦ A

Made 4 — EW +170

Opener's 1 NT rebid would be Tucker, promising exactly three spades. It's forcing for us, unless responder is precisely 4=1=4=4 with weak spades. Responder passed 2♥ smoothly, something that would not happen on a standard auction.

The play started with three rounds of diamonds. I discarded a spade, hoping North would have to ruff with a natural winner. This prevented South from ever leading a club. North led a club when in with one of his trump winners; making 4.

Our score: 88%.

**Board 24**  
West Deals  
None Vul

♠ A 9 6 4  
♥ 5 4 3  
♦ K 9 6 5  
♣ K 7

♠ J 7 3 2  
♥ K 10  
♦ Q 10  
♣ A J 8 4 3

♠ Q 8  
♥ A J 8 6 2  
♦ A 8 4 3 2  
♣ 9

♠ K 10 5  
♥ Q 9 7  
♦ J 7  
♣ Q 10 6 5 2



EW 2♥; EW 3♦; EW 1N; EW 1♠; EW 1♣;  
Par -110

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	

1 NT	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2♥	Pass	2 NT	All pass

1. Transfer to ♥.

2 NT by West

Lead: ♠ 4

Made 2 — EW +120

The opening lead went to the ♠ J. I set up the hearts and eventually brought in an eighth trick.

This boundary hand is not an advertisement for 11-13 notrumps.

Our score: 58%.

**Board 26**

East Deals

Both Vul

♠ 8

♥ A K 9 7

♦ J 6 4 2

♣ 10 9 8 3

♠ 10 4 3

♥ J 10 8 6 5 4

♦ K 8 5 3

♣ —



♠ K J 9 7 5

♥ Q

♦ Q 7

♣ A K Q 6 2

♠ A Q 6 2

♥ 3 2

♦ A 10 9

♣ J 7 5 4

EW 2♠; S 2♥; NS 1N; S 2♦; N 1♦; S 1♣;

Par -110

West	North	East	South
<i>Pete</i>		<i>Andrew</i>	
		1 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
1 ♦ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	1 ♠ <sup>3</sup>	Pass
1 NT <sup>4</sup>	Pass	2 ♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass
2 ♠	All pass		

1. 16+ HCP (17+ if balanced), artificial & forcing.

2. 0-7 HCP, artificial.

3. 4+ spades, unbalanced hand, forcing.

4. 0-5 HCP, fewer than 4 spades.

5. At least 9 cards in ♠ & ♣, either way, non-forcing.

2 ♠ by East

Made 2 — EW +110

Perhaps 2♥ would have been a better call by West, with this *maximum hand*, instead of 2♠. However, if we have a heart fit, then the ♦K is likely wasted. 2♠ was sensible and hit the last makeable contract.

A standard auction might well start 1♠ - 2♠. No self-respecting East would pass that. In fact, with only 5 losers, East might jump to game. West's hand seems too good for a "slow down" raise (bid 1NT forcing, and take a preference to 2♠).

Our score: 86%.

## Imprecision in Action 12/9/2017 - Second Session

**Board 1**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 10

♥ Q 5

♦ Q 7 6 2

♣ A Q 8 4 2

♠ A K 6 3

♥ K 9 6

♦ A 5

♣ J 10 9 6



♠ 9 8 7 4

♥ A 8 4

♦ 9 8 4 3

♣ K 7

♠ Q 5 2

♥ J 10 7 3 2

♦ K J 10

♣ 5 3

EW 3♠; EW 1N; EW 1♥; EW 1♦; EW 1♣;

Par -140

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 NT	All pass		
1 NT by West			
Lead: ♦ 2			
Made 1 — EW +90			

North elected to pass, instead of making the system 1NT opening (11-13 not vulnerable). This time it worked out well, as the opponents could not find their spade fit. 2♥ down 2 would also be a worse matchpoint result for us.

Still, on low partscore hands, the side to play in 1NT often does best, especially when not vulnerable.

Our score: 90%.

**Board 2**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ K 10 7  
♥ 10 5 3 2  
♦ Q 6  
♣ A 7 5 2

♠ Q 5 2  
♥ A 6 4  
♦ K 9 7 5 2  
♣ Q 6

♠ A J 9 4  
♥ K Q J  
♦ 10 3  
♣ J 9 8 3

NS 2♠; NS 2♥; NS 2♣; EW 1♦; Par +110

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
		Pass	1♦ <sup>1</sup>
Pass	1♥ <sup>2</sup>	All pass	

- 11-13 HCP if balanced (vulnerable); otherwise 10-15.
- Non-forcing.

1♥ by North  
Made 2 — NS +110

Note that, playing Precision, East would have opened the bidding, likely shutting us out.

After his Imprecision 1♦ opening, South would need 13+ support points to raise hearts. (He would bid 1♠ with a doubleton heart and four spades. 2♣ would promise 4+ cards in each minor. 1NT catches many of the other hands.)

Our score: 92%.

**Board 4**  
West Deals  
Both Vul

♠ A K Q 10 5  
♥ Q J 5  
♦ 7 6 5  
♣ K J

♠ 7 6 2  
♥ 10 6  
♦ A J 10 9  
♣ Q 5 4 3

♠ 9 8  
♥ A 8 4 3  
♦ 8 4  
♣ A 10 9 8 2

♠ J 4 3  
♥ K 9 7 2  
♦ K Q 3 2  
♣ 7 6

NS 3♠; NS 2♥; NS 1N; NS 2♦; EW 2♣;

Par +140

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
Pass	1NT <sup>1</sup>	All pass	

- 14-16 HCP (vulnerable).

1NT by North  
Lead: ♣ 10  
Made 4 — NS +180

This is a problem hand. A 1NT opening bid describes the values of the hand, but may miss a spade fit. (We do play a 3♣ response as Puppet Stayman, so we could find a spade fit, when responder can force to game.) A 1♠ opening is inappropriate, because it is limited to 15 HCP. A 1♣ opening is inappropriate, because a 1♠ rebid promises an unbalanced hand, and a 1NT rebid promises 17-19 HCP. So a 1NT opening is correct on a 5-3-3-2 hand, vulnerable, with exactly 16 HCP.

More good luck! West's play of the ♣ Q denied the ♣ J on the opening lead. East did not discover that clubs would cash out. Making 4.

Standard bidders might open 1♠, but my strong preference would be 1NT. After 1♠ and a 1NT response: 2♠ is an underbid; 2NT and 3♠ are overbids. Bidding another suit, hoping to follow with 2NT is unpalatable; besides, I don't like bidding this way on only 16 HCP. I prefer to do that with 17, open 1NT with 16, and treat 15 as a minimum 1♠. I tend more toward 1NT when holding three cards in the other major, so partner's transfer cannot land us in the wrong major. All that being said, this time, the 1♠ openers get to the safer strain. Our score: 64%.

**Board 14**East Deals  
None Vul♠ A Q 8  
♥ 9 8  
♦ 9 4 3  
♣ J 9 8 4 2♠ K 10 5 3  
♥ J 10 5  
♦ A 8  
♣ A 10 6 3♠ 9 2  
♥ K 7 6 2  
♦ K 10 6 5 2  
♣ K 7♠ J 7 6 4  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ Q J 7  
♣ Q 5EW 2♥; EW 1N; NS 1♠; EW 1♦; NS 1♣;  
Par -100: NS 2♠×-1

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
		Pass	1 NT <sup>1</sup>

1. 11-13 HCP, balanced (not vulnerable).

3 NT by West

Lead: ♣ 4

Down 3 — EW -150

The opponents wandered into this auction, all the way up to 3 NT. We forgot to double, but we still got 23.5 of 25 matchpoints.

On the other hand, on the likely friendly spade lead, I might have brought home 1 NT (for 56%): win the ♠ J, table the ♣ Q, and eventually win 3 spades, two hearts, a diamond and a club.

Our score: 94%.

**Board 23**South Deals  
Both Vul♠ J 6 2  
♥ A 8 4 3  
♦ 8 6  
♣ A K Q 6♠ A K  
♥ K 10 9 7 6  
♦ 10 3  
♣ J 9 7 5♠ 9 5  
♥ —  
♦ A K Q 9 7 5 4  
♣ 8 4 3 2♠ Q 10 8 7 4 3  
♥ Q J 5 2  
♦ J 2  
♣ 10W 3N; E 2N; EW 3♦; EW 3♣; NS 1♠; NS 1♥;  
Par -600

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
			Pass <sup>1</sup>

Pass 1 ♦<sup>2</sup>

1. Our weak 2-bids promise a good suit.

2. 2+ diamonds, 11-15 HCP (12-14 in third seat, if balanced).

4 ♦ by East

Down 1 — EW -100

We stole their suit, and by the time they could sort it out, they were too high.

Our score: 80%.

**Board 27**

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9

♥ Q 5 4

♦ Q J 4

♣ K 10 9 5 2

♠ 10 4 2

♥ 10 9 7 6

♦ 9 8 5

♣ A J 6



♠ A Q J 3

♥ K J 2

♦ 10 3 2

♣ Q 8 7

♠ 8 7 6 5

♥ A 8 3

♦ A K 7 6

♣ 4 3

EW 1N; N 2♦; N 2♣; N 1♠; N 1♥; S 1♦; S 1♣;

Par +90

West	North	East	South
	<i>Andrew</i>		<i>Pete</i>
			1 NT

All pass

1 NT by South

Trick	Lead	2nd	3rd	4th
1. W	♥ 10	4	2	<u>A</u>
2. S	♣ 4	6	10	<u>Q</u>

Made 2 — NS +120

Having shut out the opponents while telling them nothing, I avoided the spade lead. On the diamond return, I cashed out that suit (five tricks taken), discarding a club, and led a second club toward dummy. They did not untangle their tricks; dummy got three more, making two - on a hand where they can make 1 NT.

Our score: 86%.

**Conclusions:** First of all, we did not play particularly well in this event, making about five mistakes between us in the first session, and four in the second session. The typical cost of a mistake is about 2%, so we did not deserve to place overall.

Our bidding system worked quite well for us, especially against weaker players; and we had some good luck. Our 57.75% in the first session and 64.94% in the second session combined for second place overall. Playing error-free bridge, we might have had scores around 68% and 73%.

- Pete Matthews Jr